

Executive Summary of Evidence and Claims

Background: In August 2024, Bangladesh's political landscape was violently upended when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's elected government was overthrown amid massive student-led protests and riots. An unelected interim government took control, led by Chief Adviser Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate turned political figure. This power grab – characterized by supporters as a “revolution” – was followed by widespread unrest and targeted violence. The attached documentation (including petitions, cover letters, and evidence files) provides a comprehensive account of what transpired during and after this regime change. It alleges that the interim authorities and their affiliates committed serious international crimes, specifically crimes against humanity, to consolidate their rule and punish those associated with the former regime. Mahamudul Hasan, acting as an individual citizen and human rights advocate, has compiled and presented this evidence to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international bodies, seeking accountability and restoration of democratic norms in Bangladesh.

Key Findings and Events: The documents collectively highlight several key patterns of conduct by the interim regime between July 2024 and April 2025:

- **Systematic Attacks on Security Forces:** In the lead-up to and immediate aftermath of the coup, supporters of the new regime launched coordinated attacks on law enforcement. At least 44 police officers were killed in a span of weeks. This included brutal incidents like the Enayetpur police station lynching (13 officers killed by a mob). These attacks decimated the morale and capacity of the regular police, effectively removing obstacles to mob rule. The evidence indicates these were *not spontaneous riots* but targeted strikes—many carried out by protesters aligned with extremist factions that backed the interim government. This point is underscored by reports of simultaneous assaults on multiple police posts and the use of sophisticated tactics unusual for ordinary crowds.
- **Violence Against Civilians (“Mob Justice”):** Following the change in power, Bangladesh saw a dramatic increase in vigilante violence and mob lynchings. Human rights NGOs reported a three-fold rise in mob killings in 2024, with over 128 people killed by mobs, and roughly 96 of those incidents occurring after Hasina's ouster ([Bangladesh saw surge of mob killings in 2024: rights groups | | phelpscountyfocus.com](#)) ([Bangladesh saw surge of mob killings in 2024: rights groups | | phelpscountyfocus.com](#)). Many victims were identified (rightly or wrongly) as ruling party (Awami League) members or supporters, suggesting these lynchings were revenge-driven. The attached AFP report (via Phelps County Focus) explicitly ties the surge of mob killings to the “*August revolution*” and notes that victims often were targeted in “revenge attacks” after Hasina's fall. One illustrative case is detailed: the murder of a former student leader of Hasina's party, beaten to death by a mob in September 2024 while his wife, who had just given birth, looked on helplessly ([Bangladesh saw surge of mob killings in 2024: rights groups | | phelpscountyfocus.com](#)) ([Bangladesh saw surge of mob killings in 2024: rights groups | | phelpscountyfocus.com](#)). These acts of public brutality terrorized the population and were tacitly permitted by the interim regime (which failed to adequately condemn or curb them).

- **Persecution of Minority Communities:** There was an outbreak of communal violence against religious minorities, particularly Hindus, who were scapegoated amidst the political turmoil. A Reuters investigation found that in the days immediately after Prime Minister Hasina fled (early August 2024), hundreds of Hindu homes and businesses were vandalized and at least 15 temples were attacked across various districts ([Hindu homes, temples targeted in Bangladesh after Hasina ouster, minority group says | Reuters](#)). The Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Unity Council reported up to 40 people injured in these attacks ([Hindu homes, temples targeted in Bangladesh after Hasina ouster, minority group says | Reuters](#)). Victims and community leaders described being in constant fear; one Hindu leader is quoted as saying “*people are calling us to save their lives, but we have no support from anywhere*” ([Hindu homes, temples targeted in Bangladesh after Hasina ouster, minority group says | Reuters](#)). The evidence suggests these attacks were motivated by the victims’ religious identity and perceived political alignment (since minorities were seen as Hasina supporters). Notably, protest leaders had publicly urged crowds not to target minorities ([Hindu homes, temples targeted in Bangladesh after Hasina ouster, minority group says | Reuters](#)), implying they knew such targeting was a risk – and indeed it happened, pointing to involvement of extremist elements beyond the student protesters’ control. This supports a finding of persecution on religious grounds as part of the broader attack on civilians.
- **Crackdown on Media and Dissent:** The interim regime moved swiftly to silence critics and independent media, in what amounts to persecution on political grounds. The documents include a Peoples Dispatch article detailing how by mid-September 2024, at least 5 journalists were arrested and 25 others charged with serious offenses like murder and crimes against humanity (in absurd accusations) simply because of their critical reporting ([Bangladesh’s interim government accused of political persecution of journalists : Peoples Dispatch](#)) ([Bangladesh’s interim government accused of political persecution of journalists : Peoples Dispatch](#)). Among those targeted were the heads of major media outlets (e.g., the Editor-in-Chief of Ekattor TV) and leaders of journalist unions. The regime even compiled a list of “51 traitor journalists” to be removed from their jobs ([Bangladesh’s interim government accused of political persecution of journalists : Peoples Dispatch](#)). These actions prompted condemnation from Reporters Without Borders, which labeled it a “*systematic judicial harassment of journalists*” and evidence that media professionals were being punished for alleged ties to the former government ([Bangladesh’s interim government accused of political persecution of journalists : Peoples Dispatch](#)). The attached evidence also notes that by November 2024, the interim government cancelled press accreditations for 167 journalists, a statistic highlighted by a UN report as part of a pattern of repression ([Bangladesh: RSF calls on the head of the interim government to end ...](#)). In tandem, opposition social media activists and bloggers faced intimidation, with reports of enforced disappearances (though those are harder to document in open sources, they are alleged in witness statements). This assault on freedom of expression served to blindfold the populace and international community to the regime’s abuses, by eliminating dissenting narratives.
- **Targeted Killings and “Disappearances”:** Beyond mob violence, there are credible accounts of more clandestine abuses, such as enforced disappearances and custodial torture of regime opponents. For example, the UN Human Rights Council letter (attached

as a cover letter to OHCHR) mentions “*torture and enforced disappearances of journalists and dissenters*” under the interim government. While specifics are scant (likely due to the secretive nature of these acts), even one high-profile case surfaced: an opposition activist turned citizen journalist went missing in October 2024 after posting videos critical of Dr. Yunus’s allies. Families of several detained political figures have reported no contact or information – raising fears they may have been extrajudicially harmed. Such practices mirror past patterns in Bangladesh (the previous government was also accused of disappearances), but the concern is the scale and vindictiveness may have worsened under Yunus’s regime, especially against those who might rally resistance.

- Financial and Institutional Undermining: Annexed financial records (Annex D in the full petition) point to suspected misuse of funds and corruption aiding the interim regime’s agenda. One notable claim is that USD \$29 million of aid (including U.S. grants) were siphoned through NGOs linked to regime supporters to finance destabilizing activities. There are references to USAID funds being diverted (this is currently an allegation under investigation). Additionally, evidence from the U.S. (including statements from former U.S. officials) suggest that some in the international community were misled about the nature of Yunus’s interim government, seeing it as a technocratic caretaker, whereas it was actually engaging in repression. This misdirection may have allowed the regime to secure legitimacy and resources while committing abuses.
- Leadership Culpability – Yunus and Associates: Central to the dossier is the role of Dr. Muhammad Yunus. Far from being an unwitting figurehead, Yunus is portrayed as the mastermind or instigator of the political upheaval. He himself essentially admitted that the movement which ousted Hasina was deliberately engineered – at a public event, he praised the “brains” behind the revolution and even identified the chief architect (one of his young aides) ([Yunus reveals 'brains' behind 'well-organised' protest that ousted Hasina - The Times of India](#)) ([Bangladesh's Yunus introduces Abdullah as 'brains' behind Hasina's ouster | World News - Business Standard](#)). This admission is a linchpin in linking Yunus to the initial coup. Once in power, the expectation might have been for Yunus, a reputed social business leader, to restore calm. Instead, the evidence paints him as presiding over – and failing to stop – the campaign of violence and revenge. The chain-of-command analysis in the legal brief shows that many of the atrocities were carried out by forces or mobs who were effectively under the interim government’s influence or control (for instance, local administrators and police often stood aside or cooperated with pro-regime mobs). Given Yunus’s position, the principle of command responsibility is invoked: he had effective authority and knew of the crimes, yet did nothing to prevent or punish them. Other figures named in the documents include leaders of the student protest movement who joined the interim administration and members of Islamist groups (e.g., Jamaat-e-Islami) who reportedly provided manpower for some violent actions. The petition essentially argues that Yunus and a coalition of extremist and opportunistic actors formed a joint criminal enterprise to violently remove the elected government and secure power through fear.